

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6946

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 18271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE CONCLUDED

REFERENCE: LONDON 17898

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT SURVIVED TWO CRITICAL DIVISIONS ON
AMENDMENTS TO QUEEN'S SPEECH NOVEMBER 25 WITH MAJORITY
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OF 14 ON TORY AMENDMENT AND MAJORITY OF 6 ON LIBERAL

AMENDMENT. DIFFERENCE IN TWO VOTES WAS ABSTENTION OF 8
ULSTER UNIONISTS ON TORY AMENDMENT WHO VOTED AGAINST
GOVERNMENT ON LIBERAL AMENDMENT. END SUMMARY

1. TWO DIVISIONS MARKED THE END OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE
ON QUEEN'S SPEECH. FIRST WAS CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT RE-
JECTING LABOR GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY AND DEPLORING
GOVERNMENT INADEQUACIES IN MEETING ECONOMIC CRISIS.
TORIES WERE SUPPORTED BY LIBERALS AND SCOTNATS, BUT ULSTER
UNIONIST MPS, INCLUDING FORMER CONSERVATIVE ENOCH POWELL,
ABSTAINED.

2. WHIPS OF ALL PARTIES WERE EXTREMELY ACTIVE (FOR
GOVERNMENT AND CONSERVATIVES IT WAS A 3-LINE WHIP), BUT
LABOR FELT PARTICULARLY PRESSED BECAUSE OF OSTENTATIOUS
ABSENCE OF LAOR MP RYMAN WHOSE SEAT IN BLYTH IS NOW
BEING CHALLENEED IN COURT ACTION RELATED TO CAMPAIGN EX-
PENDITURES IN OCTOBER 1974 ELECTION. LABOR MP STONEHOUSE,
WHO IS ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COURTS, IS
UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE VOTED WITH GOVERNMENT AGAINST TORY
AMENDMENT.

3. LIBERAL AMENDMENT ATTACKED GOVERNMENT ON ITS PROPOSAL
FOR EXTENSION OF NATIONAL DOCK LABOR SCHEME. ULSTER
UNIONISTS JOINED SCOTNATS AND CONSERVATIVES IN SUPPORTING
LIBERAL AMENDMENT WITH CONSEQUENT GOVERNMENT MAJORITY OF
8 VOTES.

4. FOLLOWING DIVISIONS ON THESE TWO AMENDMENTS, PARLIA-
MENT ACCEPTED QUEEN'S SPEECH WITHOUT DIVISION.

5. COMMENT: ULSTER UNIONISTS ACTION ON TORY AMENDMENT
WAS MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE VOTING. IN CANDID
EXPLANATION FMR HIS VOTE AND THAT OF OTHER UNIONISTS,
POWELL LAID CONSIDERABLE BLAME ON PREVIOUS TORY
GOVERNMENT FOP PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. POWELL
SAID CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION COULD NOT ANSWER IN-
CISIVELY AND INTELLIGIBLY THE SAME QUESTIONS THEY
WERE PRESSING ON GOVERNMENT AND, THEREFORE, HE
AND OTHER
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UNIONISTS COULD NOT SUPPORT CONSERVATIVES.

6. LABOR BACKBENCHER ERIC HEFFER CRITICIZED LABOR
GOVERNMENT FOP ITS COMPLACENCY ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT.
(HEFFER HAD PUT DOWN AMENDMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH
PARLIAMENT DID NOT DEBATE.) OTHER BACKBENCH CRITICAL
COMMENTS ON GMVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY WERE MADE BY
NORMAN ATKINSMN FOR LEFT-WING TRIBUNE GROUP. CHANCELLOR

HEALEY POINTED OUT GOVERNMENT ACTION TO BRING DOWN UN-
EMPLOYMENT COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE 1977 BECAUSE OF
PRIORITY GOVEPNMENT GIVES TO COMBATTING INFLATION.

RICHARDSON

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